

## **FATHOM THIS!**

The monthly newsletter from San Francisco Maritime National  
Historical Park

Celebrating 20 years as a National Park: 1988-2008

**November, 2008**

**Issue # 10**

Welcome to the November issue of Fathom This!, the monthly e-letter from your national park on San Francisco's historic waterfront. The beginning of November brought the first rain of the season, followed by sunny skies. As the saying goes; "If you don't like the weather in San Francisco, just wait ten minutes." You are invited to experience all the programs the park has to offer, including the final *Alma* sail of the season and the annual Christmas At Sea celebration. For information on all the park programs, please see the park's official website [www.nps.gov/safr](http://www.nps.gov/safr) or call the visitor Center at 415-447-5000. Visitor Center and Hyde Street Pier open daily, 9:30am-5:00pm.

Feel free to forward this newsletter to friends, and enter it, in whole or in part, into blogs. Individuals and organizations are welcome to subscribe, and you may cancel at any time by emailing the editor at [peter\\_kasin@nps.gov](mailto:peter_kasin@nps.gov). Your name and email address is never sold or loaned.

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Frances Lau, Budget Officer

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## **FINAL ALMA SAIL OF THE SEASON**

***Saturday, November 22, 12:30-4:00. Adults: \$35, Seniors 62 and over, \$30, Ages 6-15, \$20. Under 6, free.***

Haul lines to raise sails as you explore San Francisco Bay aboard the historic scow schooner *Alma*! Take in dazzling views and San Francisco's riveting history. Native Americans, Spanish explorers, the Gold Rush, the Barbary Coast, Fisherman's Wharf, waterfront industries, Chinese and Italian immigrant fishing families, and more, are explored as a park ranger gives historical talks during the sail. The *Alma* concludes her season of public sails on Saturday, November 22, resuming in the spring. The three-hour program departs Hyde Street Pier at 1:00pm, with boarding at 12:30pm. Reserve space now and take advantage of this last opportunity of the season! To reserve, please call the park Visitor Center, 415-447-5000, daily, 9:30am-4:45pm (Visitor Center closes 5:00). Tickets are then paid for on day of sail from the ticket booth on Hyde Street Pier. Pier and ticket booth opens 9:30am, daily. Ticket booth is located halfway up Hyde Street Pier. Please pick up and pay for tickets before 11:00am.

Rough conditions are possible. Be prepared for cold, wind, spray and bright sun. Life jackets and flotation devices are provided. Bring water (no alcohol permitted), snacks, hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, layers of clothing, closed toe "active" footwear (no high heels), camera, binoculars, and a sense of adventure! Trip may be cancelled due to weather, or other safety concerns, at discretion of the captain.

## **CHRISTMAS AT SEA CELEBRATION**

***Saturday, December 13, at Hyde Street Pier, 3:00pm-4:45pm, and 6:00pm-9:00pm. Ships admission fees apply: Adults, \$5, ages 15 and under, free. Free with national park passes. Reservations needed only for the evening Living History portion of the program. To reserve: 415-447-5000, 9:30am-4:45pm, daily.***

Join us for this unique holiday celebration for the whole family! The park's annual Christmas At Sea features live music, refreshments, ornament making, costumed characters from 1901, and a visit from Santa Claus. The Dogwatch Nautical Band starts the festivities aboard the ferry *Eureka* at 3:00pm. Their spirited music is popular with adults and children, and audience participation is definitely encouraged. Kids of all ages will enjoy ornament making, and a ranger-led reading of a popular Christmas story. At 4:20, Santa Claus arrives and will listen to children's wishes until the afternoon portion of the program ends at 4:45. The park closes at 5:00, until re-opening for the evening program.

At 6:00pm, the park's costumed Living History players will take you back to Christmas, 1901, where you will meet and talk with captains and crews, sing carols with ferry passengers, and take part in Victorian parlor games with house boat dwellers. Lamplight tours, led by a night watchman, begin at the entrance to Hyde Street Pier, leaving every 20 minutes. Live sea music performed and refreshments served at the conclusion of each tour. Tours leave at 6:00, 6:20, 6:40, 7:00, 7:20, 7:40, 8:00, 8:20, and 8:40. When calling, please specify which time you'd like to reserve for. If that particular time slot is full, you will be offered any alternative time slots open, or you have the option of being put on a waiting list for your preferred time slot(s) in case of cancellations. Reserve your spot early. You can pay for the evening event that night at the entrance to Hyde Street Pier, or show your receipt from a daytime visit, or a national park pass. Ship-boarding tickets are good for seven days from date of purchase. With the city lights twinkling in the background, the historic ships and characters offer a memorable holiday experience!

### **C.A. THAYER UPDATE**

This year's inboard and offshore paint maintenance will be complete by the first of November. It is tough work painting a lumber schooner from a floating work dock so the crew will be pleased to move on to Winter weather preparation. We will be installing tarps to protect the aft house when the winter rain comes our way. Additionally, the crew will be putting the fall coating of oil on the decks.

The aft house restoration proceeds. The new cabin top beam repair is complete, and the existing structure of the forward house bulkhead has been reshaped to carry the proper aft ward rake of the house. Fabrication and installation of bulkhead timbers will continue throughout November.

--Phil Erwin, Chief Shipwright, *C.A. Thayer*

### **WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEE FRANCES LAU**

Fathom This! profiles new park employees, each of whom brings diverse backgrounds and life experiences to their careers in serving you as a member of this national park and maritime community. Frances Lau is the new budget analyst in the park's administrative office. Here is what brings her to San Francisco Maritime:

I was born in Canton, China. I am the oldest in the family, and I have three younger brothers. My family and I came to the United States in 1984. Ever since I came to the United States, I have always been a San Franciscan. I love the beauty and the weather this city has to offer. I am currently married with three beautiful daughters and they are Kaylee, Ashley and Michelle. When I was growing up, I loved business and numbers. Hence I pursued my accounting

degree at San Francisco State University. After obtaining my Bachelor of Science in Accounting, my first job was with the National Park Service Pacific West Region, as the Budget Analyst. Continuing my trend with the Federal Government, I joined the San Francisco Maritime family in October. I am looking forward to further contributing my skills and abilities to the park.

## **LINKS**

<http://www.nps.gov/safr/>.  
Park

San Francisco Maritime National Historical

<http://www.maritime.org>.  
Association

San Francisco Maritime National Park

<http://www.maritimelibraryfriends.org>.  
Museum Library

Friends Of The San Francisco Maritime

<http://www.hydestreetlivinghistory.org>.  
of the Living History program

The park's volunteer-created website

<http://corsair-viking.org>.  
Aquatic Park

The San Francisco Sea Scouts, our partner at